

ROCHFORD
RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

(W. J. MOFFAT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

FOR

1951

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STAFF

S. C. HARRIS, F.R.V.A., F.C.C.S., *Clerk to the Council.*

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health: W. J. Moffat, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(also Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer
South-East Essex, Essex County Council).

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods and

Petroleum Inspector: H. Jepson, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: E. R. Shepherd, Cert.R.S.I.

Clerk and Typist: Miss P. M. Ferguson (to 30th June, 1951).

Mr. K. C. Gason (from 9th July, 1951).

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

Engineer and Surveyor and Town Planning Officer: A. N. Box,
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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,

COUNCIL OFFICES,

ROCHFORD.

August, 1952.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration, my Annual Report for the year 1951 on the health and sanitary conditions of the Rochford Rural District.

Vital Statistics

The increase in the population of the District which had, in the seven year period from 1944 to 1950 inclusive, amounted to 4,200 or 28 per cent, is now apparently falling off. It would certainly appear that there is no longer the influx of population into the District which has been a feature of the immediate post-war years. It is also apparent that the resident population is barely reproducing itself. Although, the death rate continues low, the birth rate is now closely approximating to it and is practically as low as it has ever been. In 1937, the birth rate was 12.6 per 1,000 of the population, and that was the lowest rate recorded for the District. The rate for 1951 was 12.7.

It is to be noted that 75 per cent of the deaths of residents of the District in 1951 were persons who had lived to the age of 65 and over, and that no fewer than 49 per cent of the total deaths were of persons who survived to the age of 75 and upwards. The proportion of deaths in the age group 75 and upwards has, since 1946, progressively increased from 39.6 per cent to the present figure of 49 per cent.

There were four deaths due to motor vehicle accidents and one of a young child due to an accident in the house.

General Provision of Health Services

There was no change in the services under this heading in my Report for 1950.

The National Assistance Amendment Act, 1951, which came into force on 1st September, 1951, gives local authorities power to enable them to deal more expeditiously with persons in need

of care and attention and which they are not receiving, than does the original Act of 1948. No cases arose during 1951 in which it was necessary to have recourse to the procedure under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act or under the Amendment Act.

Infectious Disease

Leprosy was added to the list of notifiable diseases in June, 1951, but notification in such cases is to be made direct to the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health in order to enable secrecy to be preserved and treatment to be made available. As from 1st August, 1951, new regulations concerning the notification of Puerperal Pyrexia came into force. As the new regulations require the notification of all puerperal cases of raised temperature the result has been to increase the number of notifications received particularly from the Maternity Unit in Rochford Hospital.

The larger than usual number of notifications of infectious disease received in 1951 was substantially due to measles being present in epidemic form in the District in the first half of the year. Scarlet fever, again in a mild form, was only half as frequent as it had been in the previous year. There were no cases of diphtheria. Influenza was prevalent in the early months of the year and accounted for eight deaths.

There were three deaths from tuberculosis during the year. This is the lowest figure so far recorded for the District in any one year. The total number of notified cases on the register continues to show a gradual, though slight, decrease. In the early months of the year, a Mass Radiography Unit visited adjoining areas and was available to residents of the District.

Housing

Further steady progress was made in the building of new houses by the Council during 1951. Together with those built by private enterprise, the houses built in the District since the war constituted 8.7 per cent of the total dwellings in the District at the end of the year.

There continued to be a fall in the average number of persons per house in the District, which figure during 1951 was 3.06, and, if account be taken of the number of persons living more or less permanently in moveable dwellings in the area, would be even lower. There is relatively little real overcrowding of houses in the District, and still less on the meagre standards of the Housing Act, 1936.

The main housing problem in the District at the present time is the difficulty being experienced in having adequate maintenance work carried out because of the cost of repairs.

Water Supply

There is virtually no further need for any extension to the water mains in the District other than the short lengths required for new housing sites as these are developed. It still remains for a few property owners or occupiers to be persuaded of the advantages of a piped water supply inside a house as compared with labour and inconvenience involved for those dependent on well supplies. Persuasion would be easier were adequate sewerage available.

Drainage and Sewerage

In part of the parish of Stambridge there was laid in 1951 the first post-war main sewer, serving an area which had hitherto been remote from this amenity. When this sewerage scheme is fully operative in 1952 there will be abolished 28 pail closets in Council Houses and four in private houses, as well as the unsatisfactory drainage provisions in the remaining houses in the centre of the village.

Following the submission of the Council's proposals for the sewerage of certain areas in the parishes of Hockley, Hawkwell and Barling, two informal local inquiries were held by inspectors of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The first of these concerned Hockley and Hawkwell and was held early in the year. As a result of this inquiry, consent was given by the Ministry for the schemes for the Hawkwell area and Folly Lane, Hockley, to be commenced in 1952. A decision is still awaited on the Hullbridge (Hockley) and Eastbury Avenue (Hawkwell) schemes. The second inquiry held in October, dealt with the Council's proposals for the parish of Barling Magna which so far has no sewers. No decision has as yet been given by the Ministry on this proposal.

The Council is well aware of the problems arising from the numerous unmade roads in their District. In 1951, in liaison with The County Council, the Rural District Council prepared, in addition to their schemes for three such roads in Hawkwell, a more comprehensive programme which listed some 34 private streets for both sewerage and making up.

Refuse Collection

From time to time there is a demand for a weekly house refuse collection, and it can hardly be disputed that this would be a desirable improvement particularly as certain parts of the District are more urban than rural in character. Owing to continuing rise in the cost of the service the Council, have so far, felt unable to extend the existing service in this respect.

The disposal of house refuse remained a problem owing to the site at the Council's Depot becoming practically full and to the informal arrangements by which tipping was carried out in some gravel pits in Rochford proving somewhat unsatisfactory. A public enquiry was held in July, 1951, by an Inspector of the Ministry of Local Government and Planning into the Council's application for a compulsory Purchase Order for a site for refuse disposal in Tinker's Lane, Rochford. As a result, the Council are acquiring part of the site in question.

Sanitary Inspection of the District

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act of 1951 came into operation on 1st November, 1951, and provided for the registration of premises where these filling materials are used in manufacture, and the licensing of premises where rag flock is manufactured or stored. No registration is required where such material is used for the repair of articles. This latter type of premises is the only one at present in operation in this District.

Of the complaints received, one of the major sources is the lack of adequate drainage. The main problem is associated with the cesspools with which many houses on unmade roads are provided. The regular emptying of these is practically impossible either because of difficulty of access or of excessive cost. Pumping out on to the garden is generally unsatisfactory owing to the heavy nature of the subsoil, nor can this operation be carried out in most cases without causing a nuisance in the neighbourhood.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Generally, food traders in the District have been co-operative in matters concerning food hygiene. Following on visits paid in the previous year by the Council's Inspectors to all food handling premises, follow-up and advisory visits continued to be paid. As a result, such items as adequate washing facilities, and better protection of food against contamination, have been obtained without recourse to any formal action.

Notices in respect of dogs in food shops were given to all food shops, and were readily accepted and displayed on the premises.

There were two cases of food poisoning notified during the year. These had no connection with each other and the source in each case could only be conjectured.

In conclusion I would like to thank ~~the~~ Chairman and the Members of the Public Health Committee, for their help and support during the year, and to record my appreciation of the co-operation of the Council's Officers. To Mr. Jepson, Chief Sanitary Inspector, I am again indebted for much help in the preparation of this Report.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. MOFFAT.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	36,080
Estimate of Resident Population, mid. 1951	19,010
Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books at 31st December, 1951	6,205
	£ s. d.
Rateable Value 31st March, 1951	108,838 0 0
Produce of a Penny Rate at 31st March, 1951	439 17 9

VITAL STATISTICS

Population, Births and Death Rates in 1951 and Previous Years

In Table I on page 9 there are set out certain extracts from the vital statistics of the Rochford Rural District for the years from 1938 to 1951 inclusive.

Causes of Death

In Table II on page 10 are given the causes of death in the cases of 227 residents of the Rochford Rural District who died in 1951, whether the death occurred in the District or elsewhere in England and Wales. These figures have been supplied by the Registrar-General.

Ages at Death

The various ages at which the deaths of these residents occurred were as shown in the table below.

Age at Death	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	5	—	5
1 and under 5	1	—	1
5 and under 15	2	1	3
15 and under 25	2	1	3
25 and under 45	10	1	11
45 and under 65	17	18	35
65 and under 75	32	26	58
75 and upwards	49	62	111
Totals	118	109	227

The deaths of persons aged 65 and upwards accounted for just on 75 per cent of the deaths, and of these the group aged 75 and upwards accounted for 49 per cent of the total.

Births

The total of 241 births to residents of the District during 1951 was as follows:

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Total	...	...	118	123
Legitimate	...	...	113	119
Illegitimate	...	...	5	4

There were eight still births recorded in the District during the year 1951, seven male and one female. One of the male still births was illegitimate.

Deaths of Infants Under One Year

The number of deaths of infants under one year old was five. All of whom were legitimate. Three of these infant deaths occurred in the first four weeks of life, two of them in the first three days, and all were due to congenital defects. The remaining two infant deaths were each due to broncho pneumonia, one at six months, and the other at nine months of age.

TABLE I
Rochford Rural District
Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1951 and Previous Years

Year	Population (esti- mated in mid-year)	Births (Nett)			Deaths (Nett)						Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)
		Number	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Rate, England and Wales	Under 1 year of age			At all ages			
					Number	Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 "related" births	Number	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Standardised Death Rate	Rate, England and Wales	
1938	16,510	218	13.2	15.1	9	53	183	11.1	8.8	11.6	35
1939	16,920	251	14.8	14.8	12	51	183	10.8	8.4	12.1	68
1940	16,200	215	13.2	14.1	11	57	220	13.6	11.1	14.4	5
1941	15,070	238	15.5	13.9	8	60	205	13.6	11.1	13.5	33
1942	14,880	249	16.7	15.6	16	51	220	14.7	12.0	12.3	29
1943	14,450	280	19.3	16.2	8	49	209	14.4	11.8	13.0	71
1944	14,800	275	18.5	17.7	8	45	191	12.8	†	12.7	84
1945	15,240	264	17.3	15.9	14	46	220	14.4	†	12.6	44
1946	16,830	317	18.8	19.2	16	43	245	14.6	†	12.0	72
1947	17,480	380	21.1	20.5	10	41	255	14.5	†	12.3	125
1948	18,550	330	17.8	17.8	5	34	218	11.8	†	11.0	112
1949	18,700	323	17.3	16.7	4	32	234	12.5	9.6	11.8	89
1950	19,000	261	*13.7 (15.1)	15.8†	9	29.8	255	13.4	10.3	11.6†	6
1951	19,010	241	*12.7 (13.8)	15.5†	5	29.6	227	11.8	9.0	12.5†	14

‡ Provisional.

† No Area Comparability Factor available for these years.

* The figures in brackets represent the birth rate when allowance is made for the differing age and sex distribution of the population of the District as compared with that of England and Wales.

TABLE II
ROCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT
Causes of Death of Residents, 1951

The following table, compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, is classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	1	3
Tuberculosis, Other	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	1	0	1
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	0	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	6	5	11
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	3	2	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	0	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	0	3	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	13	4	17
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	2	4
Diabetes	0	2	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	13	16	29
Coronary Disease, Angina	18	10	28
Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	1	4
Other heart disease	14	20	34
Other circulatory disease	1	2	3
Influenza	5	3	8
Pneumonia	6	12	18
Bronchitis	10	6	16
Other diseases of Respiratory System	1	0	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	0	2	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	0	4
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations	1	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	13	20
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	0	4
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	2	0	2
Homicide and operations of War	0	0	0
Totals	118	109	227

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

In the tables on pages 12 and 13 are set out the classification of the diseases, other than tuberculosis, notified during the year in the District, according to ages and locality of residence.

Tuberculosis

Twenty-seven cases were added to the Tuberculosis Register of the District during 1951, twenty of these being new cases notified for the first time and the remaining seven being persons who have moved into the District after having been notified previously as suffering from the disease. Particulars of these new cases grouped as to sex and age are set out below.

Age	New Notifications				Transfers			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 — 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25 — 35	4	2	—	1	2	1	—	—
35 — 45	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55 — 65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	13	5	—	2	4	3	—	—

There were three deaths from tuberculosis during the year, these comprised two males and one female suffering from respiratory infection. Two males with respiratory disease died during the year from other causes.

During the year thirty-two names were removed from the Register, nine of whom had recovered from the disease, one who was found to be non-tuberculous, and twenty-two in whom the disease was still active, had gone to live elsewhere.

At the end of the year there were 113 cases on the Tuberculosis Register as compared with 121 at 1st January, 1951. These cases were classified as follows:

	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1st January, 1951	50	45	14	15
31st December, 1951	57	41	5	10

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1951 (EXCLUSIVE OF TUBERCULOSIS)

Notifiable Disease	Total Cases Notified	Age Groups.										65 or Over	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65		
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	10	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	2	—
Erysipelas ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Food Poisoning ...	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis ...	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	39	4	—	45	—
Scarlet Fever ...	22	—	—	2	1	3	10	2	1	2	—	1	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	18	3	1	2	5	1	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	388	3	22	42	51	79	174	11	2	3	—	1	—	—
Total	490	9	25	46	57	84	190	15	5	45	5	4	5	48

Table shewing Local Distribution of Cases of Notifiable Disease (Other than Tuberculosis) During 1951

Parish or Part of Parish	Acute Primary Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Measles	Meningococ- cal Menin- gitis	Puerperal Pyrexia	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Total
Ashingdon ...	1	—	—	24	—	—	4	—	29
Fambridge ...	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	11
Barling ...	1	—	—	17	—	—	—	1	19
Little Wakering ...	—	1	—	9	—	—	—	1	11
Canewdon ...	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	14
Foulness ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	4
Hawkwell ...	—	—	—	50	—	—	—	3	53
Hockley ...	—	—	—	101	—	—	1	1	103
Hullbridge ...	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	12
Paglesham ...	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Rochford ...	4	1	—	73	2	45	12	2	139
Stambridge ...	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Sutton ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wakering, Great ...	3	1	2	68	—	—	5	8	87
Total	10	3	2	388	2	45	22	18	490

HOUSING

Housing Inspections

The following table shows the number of housing inspections made during the year and the subsequent action taken in the various instances.

1. (1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	128
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	413
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	34
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	21
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (Exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	128
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :	
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	57
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
(A)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	10
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	10
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(B) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- | | | |
|--|--------|---|
| (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | |
| (b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... .. | 1 |
| (c) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted not to be used for human habitation | ... .. | 2 |

4. Other Informal Action:

- (a) Six properties were demolished in consequence of informal action.
- (b) Undertakings not to relet unfit properties were accepted from owners in respect of 11 properties.

New Building

During the year 1951 there were 83 new houses built for the Council and a further 18 for private owners. At the end of the year, 71 families were still housed in converted war-time hutments.

The Council had an additional 53 new houses under construction at the end of 1951 and tenders were then being invited for a further 64 dwellings, all of which it is anticipated will have been completed by the end of 1952.

The table below shows the number and type of dwellings owned by the Rochford Rural District Council in each parish in

the District at the end of 1951. Temporary dwellings are not included in the table.

Parish	Number of Non-parlour Type	Number of Parlour Type	Totals
Ashingdon	—	34	34
Barling Magna	16	8	24
Canewdon	43	12	55
Foulness	—	—	—
Hawkwell	—	26	26
Hockley (including Hullbridge)	—	10	10
Paglesham	12	—	12
Rochford	114	184	298
Stambridge	28	—	28
Sutton	—	—	—
Great Wakering	106	47	153
Totals	319	321	640

The total number of houses includes 32 small bungalows for aged persons, 12 being in Rochford and 20 in Great Wakering.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

An outline of the sources of the main water supplies available to the inhabitants of the Rochford Rural District was given in my Annual Report for 1949. Apart from 239 new connections to the mains, there were no changes to be recorded as regards the water supplies of the District in 1951. The total length of the water mains in the District at the end of 1951 was 88 miles, 502 yards.

Frequent samples of the raw water, and of the main water as supplied to consumers, are taken by the statutory water undertakers the Southend Waterworks Company. A copy of a report from the Counties Public Health Laboratories on the chemical analysis and bacteriological examination of a sample of main water taken on the 5th July, 1951, from the Southend Waterworks Company's mains is set out on page 17.

There was no contamination of the main water supply during the year. These waters are not liable to have any plumbo-solvent action.

WATER ANALYSIS

The following is a copy of a report from the Counties Public Health Laboratories on the analysis of a sample of water taken from the mains of the Southend Waterworks Company on the 5th July, 1951.

Chemical results in parts per Million

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Bright with a few mineral particles
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	Less than 3
Colour	...	...	...	...	Less than 10
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Reaction, pH	...	...	...	...	8.5
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	Absent
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	...	580
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	390
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	...	...	...	86
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	50
Hardness: Total	...	...	...	...	120
Carbonate	...	...	...	...	50
Non-carbonate	...	...	...	...	70
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	2.6
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Approx. 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.064
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.061
Oxygen absorbed	...	...	...	...	0.55
Residual Chlorine (at time of sampling)	...	...	...	...	0.04
Metals: Iron	...	...	...	...	0.06
Other Metals	...	...	...	...	Absent

Bacteriological Results

No. of Colonies developing on
Agar:

1 day at 37°C.	5 per ml.
2 days at 37°C.	6 per ml.
3 days at 20°C.	6 per ml.

(Continued on page 18)

	<i>Present in</i>	<i>Absent from</i>	<i>Probable number</i>
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	—ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I)	—ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	100 ml.	10 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, faintly alkaline in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The hardness of the water and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are very moderate, and its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Signed: ROY C. HOATHER.

17th July, 1951.

The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Main Water Supplies in the District

The table on page 19 shows, for each of the eleven parishes of the Rochford Rural District, the number of houses and the estimated population having a main water supply at the end of the year. The figures as to houses supplied from the water mains have been furnished by the Southend Waterworks Company and have been carefully checked with the Council's housing records, and are considered to be as accurate and up-to-date as can be obtained.

From the foregoing table it will be noted that 94.5 per cent of all houses in the Rochford Rural District have their own piped main water supply, while a further 1.9 per cent obtain main water from standpipes which are either within the curtilage of the property or have been erected by the Council in the roadside at the end of existing water mains. A main water supply is now available to 98.9 per cent of all dwellings in the District, there being only 157 properties on the line of the mains which are not yet connected thereto.

Shallow Well Supplies

There was a further decrease during 1951 in the number of houses dependant on shallow wells for their water supply. At East End, Paglesham, the pump ceased to be used as piped

MAIN WATER SUPPLIES

Rochford Rural District

Houses and Population in each Parish on Main Supply, 1951

Parish	No. of Houses	Estimated Population	Houses on Main Supply	Estimated Population on Main Supply	Houses Supplied by Standpipe	Estimated Population Supplied by Standpipe
Ashingdon (incl. South Fambroge) ...	441	1,352	402	1,232	4 + 8‡	12 + 9
Barling Magna (incl. Little Wakering)	310	950	255	781	22	68
Canewdon	258	791	242	742	6	18
Foulness†	114	350	109	334	5	15
Great Wakering	913	2,798	879	2,694	—	—
Hawkwell	989	3,031	971	2,976	6 + 5‡	18 + 15
Hockley (incl. Hullbridge)	1,291	3,957	1,243	3,810	13 + 5‡	40 + 31
Paglesham	110	337	68	209	2	6
Rochford	1,559	4,779	1,493	4,576	41	126
Stambridge	140	429	126	386	—	—
Sutton	77	236	75	230	—	—
	6,202	19,010	5,863	17,970	99 + 18‡	303 + 55

† War Department Mains.

‡ Council Standpipes on roadside. Others are in curtilage of private properties.

supplies were laid on to all of the houses which until then had to depend on this one source of supply.

At the end of the year the following house properties on the line of the existing water mains still relied on shallow wells for their supply.

Great Wakering	...	...	10	Rochford	...	...	5
Barling Magna	...	...	10	Canewdon	...	...	1
Stambridge	...	...	3				

The majority of the above properties are owner occupied, and in such cases the owners have been reluctant to connect to the water main supply because of the expense involved and the lack, up to the present of a main sewer.

Four samples of water from four of the shallow wells were taken for bacteriological examination during the year, as a follow up of the sampling done in the previous year, and of these samples two were unsatisfactory and two satisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples showed the presence of faecal coli or of coliform organisms in more than minimal quantities. Neither of these unsatisfactory shallow wells is now in use.

There are also a further 29 properties which perforce rely on shallow well supplies out of the 64 for whom a main water supply at the present time is not possible because of their isolated situations.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage Disposal Works

The Engineer and Surveyor to the Council has kindly supplied the following notes on the operation of the respective Sewage Disposal Works during the year.

The Stambridge works, which are designed to deal with a maximum of 20,000 persons at 25 gallons per head per day, and are estimated to be serving some 16,500 persons at the present time, are fed from the main pumping station at Rochford, and the outfall of the works enters the tidal waters of the River Roach. During 1951 the standard of the effluent from these works was again uniformly high, and well within the limits of purity required on the standard adopted by the Essex County Council for inland waterways. The disposal of excess raw sludge, by direct application to fertilize adjacent agricultural land has proved to be successful and economical.

The works at Great Wakering, which are designed for a population of 2,500 persons and are estimated to be serving approximately 2,270 at present, are also fed from a pumping station, and the outfall is again to tidal waters, in this instance, Havengore Creek. Except after heavy rains, the standard of this effluent has also been uniformly high. The six existing sludge beds were completely reconditioned in 1950 and, although below the required capacity have greatly improved in efficiency.

The excess flows due to storm and subsoil water which affect both works is by-passed at the discussed rate of three times the dry weather flow, for appropriate partial treatment.

In addition to the above works there are two small sewage plants, one at Sutton and one at Canewdon, which were originally built for military camps sited there during the war. As these camps are now used in part for temporary housing, these sewage disposal plants have continued in operation. The outfall from the Sutton plant enters a small brook which is a tributary of the River Roach, that from the Canewdon plant is piped to a ditch. The Council are now maintaining these two plants.

Sewer Extensions

In 1951 there were laid 525 yards of soil sewer in Stambridge village as part of the sewerage scheme for that village. There were no other sewer extensions laid in 1951 in the District.

New Connections to Sewer, 1951

The number and locations of house drainage connections to the main sewers which were made during the year were as follows:—

EXISTING DWELLINGS					
<i>Parish</i>				<i>No. of</i>	
				<i>Connections</i>	
Hawkwell	4
Hockley	6
NEW DWELLINGS					
Rochford	37
Hawkwell	10
Hockley	4
Great Wakering	17
Ashingdon	15

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The only two rivers in the Rural District, namely the Rivers Crouch and Roach and the creeks which enter them, are tidal in their entire course in the District. They are not liable to any major pollution from sources within the Rural District. One small stream which is a tributary of the River Roach, receives in its upper reaches, the effluent from the Sewerage Disposal Works

of the adjacent Rayleigh Urban District Council, and because of the small volume of this stream, some pollution can occur when dilution is insufficient in dry weather.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The services of house refuse and pail closet collection continued in 1951 on the lines of the previous few years. The table below shows the extent of these services in the various parishes in the District in 1951.

The cost of House Refuse Collection and Disposal for the year ending 31st March, 1952 was £4,475 as compared with £3,998 for the previous year: The corresponding costs for the Night Soil Collection service were £1,860 and £1,764 respectively.

Parish	House Refuse No. of Houses Collected		Pail Closet No. of Houses Collected	
	14 day	7 day	Twice Weekly	Weekly
Ashingdon	229	—	39	4
Barling Magna	296	—	161	—
Canewdon	243	—	92	19
Foulness	110	—	—	—
Hawkwell	745	—	11	—
Hockley	1,005	—	87	16
Paglesham	105	—	74	—
Rochford	1,165	387	14	23
Stambridge	134	—	80	—
Sutton	75	—	28	—
Wakering, Great	903	—	78	—
TOTALS	5,010	387	664	62

Salvage Collection

The Council collect salvage at the same time as the house refuse collection is made and for this purpose employ trailers which are attached to their refuse collecting vehicles. Any obvious worth while metal salvage is sorted on the refuse tip for subsequent collection by scrap merchants.

The following list gives particulars of salvage collected and sold during the financial year ended 31st March, 1952.

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Paper	66	9	2	—
Bones	—	11	2	2
Non-ferrous Metals	—	17	—	15
Heavy Metals	4	9	—	—
Textiles	2	4	2	—
Totals	74	11	2	17

The value of the salvage sold during the year was £1,089 7s. 0d.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The table below shows the number and nature of the inspections made by the Council's Inspectors, and the notices, formal and informal, served under the various sections during the year.

Nature of Inspection	Total Inspec- tions	Notices Served	
		Informal	Formal
Bakehouses	19	3	—
Camping Sites	50	2	—
Dairies	19	—	—
Damage by Pests Act 1949	433	59	—
Disinfections	5	—	—
Disinfestations	11	1	—
Drainage and Cesspools	376	48	—
Factories Act 1937	59	3	—
Food Storage and Preparation Premises	131	4	—
Hairdressers	9	—	—
House Refuse	46	24	1
Housing and Public Health Acts ...	547	73	10
Houseboats	5	—	—
Ice Cream Premises	53	2	—
Ice Cream Samples	34	—	—
Infectious Disease and Food Poison- ing Enquiries	55	—	—
Knackers' Yards	6	—	—
Licenced Premises	10	—	—
Milk Samples	1	—	—
Miscellaneous	225	—	—
Moveable Dwellings	64	—	—
National Assistance Act	4	—	—
Nuisances, Public Health Act ...	118	7	—
Outworkers (Factories Act, 1937) ...	8	—	—
Petroleum Acts	52	2	—
Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951	3	—	—
Rehousing Enquiries	62	—	—
Schools	9	—	—
Shops Act	24	—	—
Water Samples	4	—	—
Water Supplies	180	21	2
Totals	2,622	249	13

Rodent Control

As in the past few years, the Council continued to give a free treatment service to housholders, and to make a charge for treatments given to business premises. In order to enable owners and occupiers to carry out their obligations under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, the Council have made the services of one of their employees available for this purpose.

Sewage works, sewers and refuse tips have, as in previous years, been treated by the Council's employees as the occasion demands. Nine such treatments were given in 1951.

In the table below are given details of the number of inspections and treatments carried out during 1951.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949 Year Ended 31st December, 1951

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	Total
1 Total number of properties in Local Authority's District ...	12	6061	409	378	6860
2 Number of Properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1951 as a result (a) of Notification or (b) otherwise... ..	(a) — (b) *	28 190	3 45	11 156	42 391
3 Number of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by rats	Major Minor	— 9	— 28	— 11	— 51
4 Number of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by mice	—	(Minor) 8	—	—	8
5 Number of infested properties (under 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority	9	36	1	10	56

* Council's Refuse tips and Sewerage Works are inspected daily

Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites

In 1951 the number of licensed caravan sites in the District increased from one to four. Two of these are in Pooles Lane, Hullbridge, and one in Lower Road, Hockley, and the other in Station Road, Hockley. The density of caravans on these sites is prescribed by the Council on behalf of the County Council under the terms of the Town and Country Planning Act 1949. On these four sites, approximately 80 caravans are in occupation throughout the year. Each site is equipped with main water, ablution blocks and, in three cases, baths with hot and cold water. One site is connected to the main sewer, the others are served by cesspools.

In addition to the above sites the Council issued annual licences, under the Public Health Act 1936, to 27 individual applicants, to station moveable dwellings on various single sites

throughout the District during the year. In all such instances the provision of an adequate water supply and satisfactory sanitary accommodation has been insisted upon.

Schools

Routine inspections continued to be made at schools in regard to sanitation and canteen facilities. There were no changes of any moment in 1951.

Factories

The table on page 26 gives details of inspections made by the Council's Officers at factories in the Rochford Rural District during the year. As will be seen, there are comparatively few factories without mechanical power; i.e., factories where the local authority are responsible for health provisions, other than sanitary accommodation, with which they are concerned in all cases. The few factories mentioned, comprise, in the main, the smaller bakehouses and garages.

Inspections were also made at factories in the District, and of plans of new factories proposed to be built, with regard to the provisions necessary for means of escape in case of fire. The Council have designated their Sanitary Inspector to carry out this work. Close co-operation is maintained with the Chief Fire Officer of the Essex County Council in respect of these matters.

None of the factories situated in the Rural District, employ any outworkers. From lists supplied by other local authorities it appeared that there were 29 outworkers employed in the District, nearly all of whom were engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

Insect Pests

Five cases of minor infestations by bed bugs had to be dealt with during the year. The use of an insecticide containing 5 per cent DDT proved effective in all cases.

The prevalence of mosquitoes was again irritatingly evident, particularly during the months April to June, in low lying areas near the creeks.

Shops

There are comparatively few premises in the Rural District to which those provisions of the Shops Act apply, regarding sanitary accommodation, heating and ventilation. In all such cases, i.e., where there are employees, the arrangements are satisfactory.

The majority of visits to shops are in connection with the storage of food and its preparation for human consumption, under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, and the Byelaws made in 1950.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS 1937 AND 1948

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	13	24	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	49	25	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority, (Excluding out-workers' premises)	7	10	—	—
Total	69	59	3	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Reme'd	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	3	—	1	—

Sanitary Accommodation, Drainage and Cesspools

It will be observed from the tabulated list that visits paid under these headings, form a fairly considerable proportion of the total number of visits made by the Inspectors during the year.

Public Conveniences

Two new public conveniences, one at Hockley and one at Great Wakering were opened in 1951.

Port Sanitary Regulations

There is one berth in the Rochford Rural District, on the River Crouch to which an occasional foreign-going ship brings a cargo of timber. This berth is in the customs port of Maldon but this Council is the sanitary authority.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk and Dairies

There were six retail milk purveyors registered in the Rochford Rural District during the year. Three other firms having their premises outside the District were granted supplementary licences by the Council to retail sterilised, pasteurized and tuberculin tested milk. In the District, a further 20 dealers licences for sterilised milk, ten for pasteurized milk, and seven for tuberculin tested milk were granted by the Council during 1951, to dealers who had premises in the District.

In the case of the six retailers mentioned above, the milks supplied by them to the public were as follows:

<i>Retailer</i>	<i>Milks Retailed</i>
A	T.T., Pasteurized, Sterilized.
B	Pasteurized, Sterilized, Non-designated.
C	Sterilized, Non-designated.*
D	T.T., Pasteurized, Sterilized, Non-designated.
E	T.T., Pasteurized, Sterilized, Non-designated.*
F	T.T., Pasteurized, Sterilized, Non-designated.

*Bought pasteurized in bulk, bottled on premises and sold as non-designated.

Routine samples of milk as supplied to consumers in the District are taken for bacteriological examination and for the methylene blue and phosphatase tests. All samples taken in 1951 were satisfactory. Samples are also taken to check the efficacy of bottle washing facilities at retail premises.

Meat

As in previous years, there were six private slaughterhouses and one knacker's yard licenced by the Council during the year. The slaughterhouses were again only used for emergency killing, and the slaughtering of a limited number of pigs under Ministry of Food Permits for the slaughter of privately owned pigs. There is no Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in the Rural District, which is served by the Ministry's slaughterhouses in the Rayleigh and Benfleet Urban Districts.

The following table gives details of the animals slaughtered for human consumption in the District in 1951, and of the carcasses or parts of carcasses which, upon inspection, were found to be unfit for human consumption.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle, exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected ...	—	—	—	—	15
All diseases except Tubercu- losis	—	—	—	—	—
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis ...	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only:	—	—	—	—	—
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Inspection of meat exposed for sale in butchers' shops is undertaken by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors during routine visits to these shops, and when specially called in by the butcher. In this category the following meat was condemned in the District during 1951 as unfit for human consumption:

Home killed beef, 16lbs.; Liver 18½lbs.; Offals, 14lbs.; Veal 1½lbs.

Bakehouses

Advisory visits were paid to each of the ten bakehouses in the District during the year.

Ice Cream

There were two manufacturers of ice cream registered in the District in 1951 under Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act, 1933. Neither of these manufactured on any large scale, and both employed the cold mix method. Sixty-one vendors of ice cream were also registered during the year.

Visits continued to be paid by the Council's Inspectors to all premises handling ice cream, and particularly to those engaged in manufacturing, to advise on methods, the use of detergents and the storage and handling of the article. The majority of vendors are increasingly obtaining the pre-packed article which does of course decrease the amount of handling to which the ice cream is subject and thereby diminishes the likelihood of contamination.

The following table shows the results obtained by the Public Health Laboratory, Southend, from the samples submitted from this District during 1951.

1. From Manufacturers.

Manufacturer	No. of Samples	Grading on Methylene Blue Test			
		I	II	III	IV
A	4	2	0	2	0
B	1	1	0	0	0
Total	5	3	0	2	0

2. From Retailers.

	Total No. of Samples	Grading on Methylene Blue Test			
		I	II	III	IV
Total	29	15	5	6	3

The three samples in Grade IV all came from one retailer. The product in this case was wrapped and samples from the manufacturer at the time were satisfactory. Subsequent samples from the retailer were satisfactory.

Shellfish

The shellfish layings at Paglesham in the River Roach are under the control of the Port of London Health Authority. There are similar layings in the River Crouch but no landings from these are made in the Rochford Rural District.

Other Foodstuffs

Regular inspections are also carried out by the Council's Inspectors at other food premises in the District. The table below shows the amounts of various foodstuffs found, upon inspection, to be unfit for human consumption.

<i>Tinned Foods</i>				<i>Fresh Foods</i>			
Meat	...	...	47 tins	Fish	...	...	8 stone
Milk	...	...	62 tins	Tea	...	...	1½lbs.
Soups	...	...	13 tins	Sweets	...	...	14lbs.
Fish	...	...	5 tins	Butter	...	...	1½lbs.
Fruit	...	...	17 tins				
Vegetables		...	59 tins				
Marmalade		...	1 tin				
Sausage	...	...	2 tins				



